

What is Claimed is:

1. A locator tool capable of being positioned on an edge of an outer surface of a vehicle door adapted to receive an adhesive-backed film segment comprising:

5 a main body configured to be mounted on the edge of the outer surface of the vehicle door;

holding structure associated with said main body for releasably securing said main body to the outer surface edge; and

10 at least one locator projection associated with said main body and adapted to mount an adhesive-backed film structure including the film segment capable of being adhered to the vehicle door outer surface.

2. A locator tool as set forth in claim 1, wherein said main body includes at least one recess into which the surface edge is received.

15 3. A locator tool as set forth in claim 2, wherein said main body comprises at least one flange which defines said recess.

20 4. A locator tool as set forth in claim 2, wherein said holding structure comprises at least one magnetic element.

5. A locator tool as set forth in claim 4, wherein said magnetic element is mounted so as not to extend into said recess.

25 6. A locator tool as set forth in claim 1, wherein said at least one locator projection comprises at least two locator pins adapted to receive a removable tab forming part of the adhesive-backed film structure.

30 7. A locator tool as set forth in claim 1, wherein said main body has a configuration allowing it to be mounted to an outer edge of the vehicle door outer surface.

8. A locator tool as set forth in claim 1, wherein said main body has a configuration allowing it to be mounted to an inner edge of the vehicle door outer surface.

9. A locator tool as set forth in claim 1, wherein said main body comprises a first leg portion and a second leg portion, said first and second leg portions defining an angle less than about 140 degrees so as to allow said main body to be mounted to a corner of the vehicle door outer surface.

10. A locator tool as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least a portion of said main body has a textured surface so as to reduce the amount of adhesion that occurs when a portion of an adhesive side of the adhesive-backed film segment contacts said main body thereby allowing the segment adhesive side portion to be easily removed from said textured surface.

11. A locator tool assembly comprising:
a locator tool capable of being mounted to a vehicle door and including at least one locator projection adapted to mount one or more film tabs, each tab forming a removable part of an adhesive-backed film structure; and
a stripper mechanism associated with said locator tool for use in removing the one or more film tabs from said at least one locator projection.

12. A locator tool assembly as set forth in claim 11, wherein said locator tool further comprises:
a main body configured to be mounted to the vehicle door, said at least one locator projection being coupled to said main body; and
holding structure associated with said main body for releasably securing said main body to said door.

13. A locator tool assembly as set forth in claim 12 wherein said main body includes at least one recess into which an edge of a vehicle door is received.

14. A locator tool assembly as set forth in claim 12, wherein said holding structure comprises at least one magnetic element.

15. A locator tool assembly as set forth in claim 11, wherein said stripper mechanism
5 comprises:

at least one guide rod; and

at least one stripper element coupled to said guide rod, said stripper element and said guide rod being movable relative to said at least one locator projection so as to effect removal of the one or more tabs from said at least one locator projection.

16. A locator tool assembly as set forth in claim 15, wherein said at least one guide rod extends through a bore in a main body of said locator tool and said at least one stripper element comprises first and second stripper plates coupled to said at least one guide rod on opposing sides of said main body.

17. A locator tool assembly as set forth in claim 16, wherein said at least one locator projection comprises at least two locator pins which extend through bores in said main body so as to permit the one or more film tabs to be mounted on one of first and second sides of said main body.

18. A locator tool assembly as set forth in claim 11, in combination with one or more adhesive film structures.

19. A locator tool assembly as set forth in claim 18, wherein each of said one or more
25 adhesive film structures comprises an adhesive-backed paint replacement film structure.

20. A method for applying an adhesive-backed film segment to an outer surface of a vehicle door, said method comprising the steps of:

providing a locator tool assembly comprising a locator tool capable of being
30 mounted to a vehicle door and including at least one locator projection, said locator tool assembly further including a stripper mechanism associated with said locator tool;

mounting said locator tool to a vehicle door;

mounting an adhesive-backed film structure on said at least one locator projection via a tab forming part of the adhesive-backed film structure, the film structure further including a segment;

5 securing the adhesive-backed film segment to an outer surface of the vehicle door;
and

removing the tab of the adhesive-backed film structure from said at least one locator projection via said stripper mechanism.

21. The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said locator tool comprises a main
10 body including at least one recess and said mounting step comprising the step of locating said main body such that an edge of the vehicle outer surface is received in said at least one recess.

22. The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein said stripper mechanism comprises at
15 least one guide rod, and at least one stripper element coupled to said guide rod, and said removing step comprising the step of moving said stripper element and said guide rod relative to said at least one locator projection so as to effect removal of the tab from said at least one locator projection.

20 23. The method as set forth in claim 20, wherein the tab and segment of the adhesive-backed film structure are coupled together prior to said securing step and further comprising the step of separating the segment from the tab.